

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 remain in the application.

Claims 1-21, 23, 25, 27-28 were previously canceled.

Claim 22 is in independent form.

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over United States Patent No. 3,470,598 to Berthelsen in view of United States Patent No. 5,634,306 to Riegelman. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In Berthelsen, the metal reinforcement O_R and the exterior coating O_B therein were relied on for disclosing the claimed plastic and metal components, respectively. In Berthelsen (col. 5, lines 39-42; FIG. 13), the metal reinforcement O_R has a plurality of holes with multiple sealing of plastic coating O_B through "all the holes or apertures of the metal strip material." Further, in Berthelsen (col. 1, lines 32-36; FIGS. 1 and 13), the metal is "completely embedded" in the synthetic resin with every hole in the metal being covered by the resin. On the other hand, Claim 22 recites a metal component having a second opening and a plastic component not covering the second opening of the metal component. For this reason alone, the metal reinforcement O_R and the exterior coating O_B do not teach or suggest the claimed metal and plastic components.

In the Action, the Examiner pointed to Berthelsen (FIG. 3) and cited the open end of the U-shaped strip for disclosing the claimed second opening of the closed cross section component. Presumably, the Examiner further relied upon Berthelsen (FIG. 1) illustrating the U-shaped strip rotated counter-clockwise by 90 degrees and encapsulated within the coating E_2 . In Berthelsen, the open end of the U-shaped strip is the complete omission of material on one

side of an otherwise closed cross section component along the entire length of the strip. It is respectfully submitted that this open end is substantially different than a mere opening in a closed cross-section component, as it distinguishes a U-shaped strip from a closed cross-section component. As stated in the Action, Berthelsen fails to disclose the claimed metal component having a closed cross section. For this additional reason, Claims 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 are nonobvious and allowable.

Neither Berthelsen nor Riegelman, whether taken individually or in any permissible combination, discloses the claimed plastic component and the metal component having a closed cross section with a second opening that is not covered by the plastic component.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Nordmeyer believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 689-3500 if any unresolved matters remain.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0852 (Reising Ethington Barnes Kisselle PC).

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Any needed extension of time is hereby requested with the filing of this document.

Respectfully submitted,

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